



## **MEETING MINUTES / 21 October 2021**

**\*\*MEETING WAS CONDUCTED HYBRID VIA ZOOM DUE TO COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS\*\***

### **ATTENDANCE:**

Present: Baldwin, Lopez, Magner, Harwood, Sarg, Lardizzone, Schroeder, Lewis

Excused: Bradley, McMullen, Miller, Farley

Guests: Vince Kane (Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center), Carol Erhart (DVH), Pat Cerchio (First State Military Women), Dave Skocik (Friends of Delaware Veterans), Eric Buckson (4<sup>th</sup> Levy Court District Commissioner), Barry Newstadt (Former Commissioner), Sam Cannan (Veterans Watchmaker Initiative)

### **CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS:**

Nothing to report

### **MEETING MINUTES:**

Previous minutes approved by Lardizzone seconded by Magner.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:**

Nothing to report

### **Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Carole Erhart, Director**

(Erhart) Discussed overviewing Healthcare Employment Market, COVID Testing, Employee Recognition, Partnership with DHR Diversity Office, and major projects. (Displayed and discussed how DVH is over the average of healthcare providers compared to state and national levels.)

(Erhart) COVID Status, 82% of staff are vaccinated, 95% of residents are vaccinated. Visitation is on outbreak status. (Discussed and displayed staffing of DVH). Described how staff and committees get to provide input for new medical equipment and technology.

(Farley) Please attached PowerPoint to minutes, confirmed

(Baldwin) We need to switch to Director Kane due to scheduling and time limitations

### **Wilmington VAMC – Vince Kane, Director**

(Kane) October 25<sup>th</sup>, Senator Carper will be doing a virtual summit, with a limit of 25 physical attendance. Not sure if Governor will attend and speak about Governor's challenge.

(Baldwin) Informed Kane he will not be in state for summit.

(Kane) Discussed what topics will be presented during the summit.

(Baldwin) Asked about COVID boosters.

(Kane) Pfizer is the only booster available currently and VA is waiting for guidance on other brands of boosters.

(Baldwin) Thank you for the report, now lets jump back to Carol.

### **Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Carole Erhart, Director**

(Erhart) Are there any questions from my presentation?

(Baldwin) Is testing 3 times a week vs. 1 time per week causing a financial impact?

(Erhart) No, we have enough COVID money to sustain the testing in house for another 5 months.

(Sarg) Will the PCC system interface with the new dental clinic?

(Erhart) I don't believe so, but once we get going we will see if there is a transfer method.

(Lardizzone) When is the next admissions meeting?

(Erhart) I do not know. I will look into scheduling this week or next.

(McMullen) What is your census right now?

(Erhart) 52.

(Sarg) Are the staffing numbers you presented the current staffing, or the maximum staffing should we meet full capacity.

(Erhart) That was currently working staff. I have several staff members out on workers comp and FMLA. And we are in the process of hiring additional. We are never below the Eagles Law and always strive to be above the average.

(Erhart) -- Presented residents and staff photos saying thank you to Commissioner Baldwin.

(Baldwin) Thank you. Any more questions for Carol?

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

(Ms. Perini) Representing petitioners regarding to DVH. Facility concerns.

(Baldwin) Acknowledged some individuals suggested that DDVH fall under DHSS rather than Secretary of State.

(Skocik) Delaware Veterans Trust Fund event.

(Cerchio) New officers. Teaming with Girl Scouts for cemetery wreath pick up.

(Thorton) Expressed concerns about DVH.

(Baldwin) Thank you.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Magner:**

Interments – 73 (-3)

#### **Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:**

Interments – 36 (+3)

#### **Health and Human Services, Commissioner Harwood:**

(Harwood) COLA increase in 2022, benefitting disabled vet and retirees. HR 3 bill is being reassessed due to COVID.

#### **Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:**

(Sarg) Initial drafts of the perspective legislation will be sent out.

(Baldwin) Discussed his conversations with legislators and how we have support but need more input. Veterans do not want to come to Delaware. (several in agreement)

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:**

(Baldwin on behalf of Director Matticks)

Approved 5 grants, awarded \$11,356, Currently have \$98,120.66 in trust fund. \$4,888 from last year rolling into endowment fund.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:**

#### **Commissioner McMullen (Air Force Sergeants Association - AFSA)**

POW/MIA Day (Run and retreat) was held in Sept.

**Commissioner Miller (American Legion - AL)**

Service Officer is back in the VA office and travelling  
Interment got national attention in Seaford

**Commissioner Bradley (American Veterans - AMVETS)**

New national commander, 6 handicap ramps, Trunk or Treat, and Appreciation picnic

**Commissioner Farley (Marine Corps League - MCL)**

Toys for Tots

**Commissioner Lardizzone (Disabled American Veterans - DAV)**

67 clients for veterans claims and 4 DIC claims.

**Commissioner Sarg (Military Officers Association of America - MOAA)**

2022 Storming the Hill (virtual or physical)  
Dover was awarded 5-star rating

**Commissioner Magner (Military Order of the Purple Heart - MOPH)**

\$1000 donation to friends of the fallen  
Purple Heart Trail

**Commissioner Phillips (Veterans of Foreign Wars - VFW)**

Donated to VFW in MS after hurricane

**Commissioner Baldwin (Vietnam Veterans of America - VVA)**

Veterans Day Event @ 2 pm

**Commissioner Schroeder (Korean War Veterans Association - KWVA)**

Honored book author veteran at last meeting

**Commissioner Lewis (At Large, affiliated with NABVETS)**

New National Commander  
Served 15 clients through VSOs

**Commissioner Sutton (At Large)**

Nothing to report

**Commissioner Harwood (At Large, affiliated with National Guard)**

Uptick with incarcerated veterans looking for services  
Possible future veteran resource drive thru

**Commissioner Lopez (At Large, affiliated with Delaware Veterans)**

Wants to sponsor 7 families for Christmas

**TERM COMPLETION:**

Nothing to report

**EVENTS:**

Nothing to Report

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Nothing to report

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Nothing to report

**ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:**

Veterans Day Ceremony

Baldwin's Farewell

**SPECIAL SESSION:**

Nothing to report

**EXECUTIVE MEETING:**      **Meeting date unknown**

**NEXT MEETING:**                      **Tuesday, 16 November 2021 at 1000**  
**LOCATION:**                              **Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs**